

Memorial Day

Torrance

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INSIDE TODAY

Ann Lenders A-4 Restaurants A-5
 Church News A-8 Sports B-2
 Obituaries A-2 Women's News A-6
 PTA News A-7 Want Ads B-1

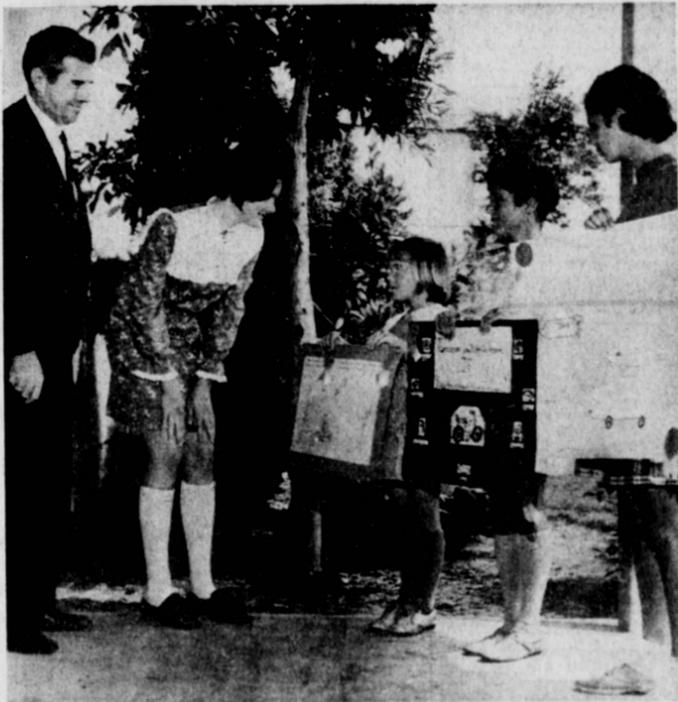
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POSTER CONTEST . . . Students at Jefferson Elementary School, under the leadership of Terri Twedell and Charlene Messmer, organized a full week of safety projects. A poster contest, judged by Frank Paour of the Torrance Safety Council and member of the Torrance Police Department, attracted some 200 entries. Winning posters, being shown here to William Zecher, principal, and Miss Twedell, 13, were submitted by Janetta Twedell, 7, kindergarten through second grade; Caren Thurston, 10, third through fifth grades; and Diane Blasman, 12, sixth through eighth grades. A lecture program by Torrance police officers and a "Use Crosswalks" campaign also were held during the week. (Press-Herald Photo)

City Council Handed \$17.3 Million Budget

An Editorial

Memorial Day

Dunkirk . . . Flanders . . . Iwo Jima . . . Normandy Beach . . . Guadalcanal . . . Seoul . . . Inchon . . .

Names of once obscure places that now represent the costliest "package deal" for freedom that any nation has ever paid.

And the list keeps growing, Da Nang . . . Saigon . . . Ben Hoa . . . still more names where the price tag for freedom runs still higher.

There is no bargain in war. Its inhumanities are hard to comprehend — even harder to understand. Its purpose is clear.

Men die so we can complain about smog, traffic, and the price of the second car.

Men die so we can have a choice, elect a mayor, and print a newspaper. They die so we can be educated, raise families, and attend the church of our choice.

Dying in war is not a glamorous death. It comes swiftly in a strange land thousands of miles from a neighborhood that only exists in a memory.

But it is a valiant death for no man can give more to fellow man than his very life.

Today is Memorial Day, a day we set aside to honor these men who gave their lives in places most of us will never see. Places, in most cases, that aren't worth a single tear on a mother's cheek.

Too many Americans forget too easily. Memorial Day becomes the first long weekend of the summer. It's the day of the Indianapolis "500," a day for a family picnic or a weekend to travel to the desert, beach, or city.

But a single day and hazy memories are hardly compensation for parents standing at a graveside staring down at a small flag placed carefully beside a marker or for a widow trying to explain to small children that their father was a hero.

They remember everyday. They don't need a national holiday or a long weekend.

But for those who have geared their lives to "tomorrow," Memorial Day should bring back a few "yesterdays."

A simple thought, a prayer in church, or a moment's reflection is little to pay—very little compared to what they did for us.



MICHAEL DIXON
 Killed in Vietnam

Soldier Dies in Vietnam

A 19-year-old West High graduate has been killed in Vietnam, it was learned here yesterday.

Michael K. Dixon, son of Mrs. Joyce Weber of Torrance, was killed May 21 while on patrol, it was reported. Young Dixon was attached to the 199th Infantry Brigade.

Born June 24, 1949, Dixon was a native of Texas. He was graduated from West High School in 1967 and had completed a year of study at El Camino College.

WHILE AT West High School, he was active in speech and drama and participated in a number of school productions. He also was active in local theater groups and the writing guild.

Dixon entered the Army Sept. 24, 1968, and left Oakland for Vietnam last March 25.

IN ADDITION to his mother, (See DIXON, Page A-2)

Special Study Sessions Set On New Budget

Annual city budget hearings will begin Wednesday at 4 p.m., with City Councilmen reviewing the proposed \$17,308,268 budget submitted by City Manager Edward J. Ferraro.

Although the 276-page document recommends no increase in the city property tax rate, the 5 per cent utility users tax recently passed by City Councilmen has been taken into consideration. The new tax on telephones, electricity, gas, water, and cable TV, is expected to rake in roughly \$1.4 million in new revenue.

The new revenue source was deemed necessary in view of the following expenses:

- Library bond debt service increase (\$149,040);
- Increased retirement benefits (\$318,000);
- General increases in salaries and the cost of materials and supplies (\$795,500); and
- Recommended program additions in the general operating budget (\$563,119).

The proposed 1969-70 budget managed to make ends meet only by deleting more than \$977,620 in departmental requests, Ferraro said.

A TOTAL of 60.8 new employment positions (at a cost of \$318,599) have been requested, in comparison with 31.2 positions added in 1968-69 and 61.4 positions in 1967-68. Of the 60.8 new positions, 32 are slated to staff and maintain the new Civic Center Library, which is expected to be completed in May, 1970. The positions will therefore require three months or less financing.

Some of the other new services suggested by the proposed budget are additional data processing capabilities; increased school patrol for

prevention and control of narcotics activities, loitering, and school disruptions; the hiring of an additional policewoman for work with female juveniles; swim instruction program in motel and home swimming pools; a mobile recreation arts center program; and increased general fund contribution to bus lines to offset cost of extending existing lines, the addition of the new International Airport line, and acquisition of additional new buses with the aid of a federal grant.

THE SUM of \$932,736 has been held in reserve for contingencies and Capital Improvement projects. The 1969-70 Capital Improvement program will be submitted for consideration when the amount required for salary increases, the year-end surplus, and the 1969-70 assessed valuation of property are definitely known.

Ferraro reminded councilmen that the city must provide funds for two major projects during the coming year: (See BUDGET, Page A-2)

Tennis Courts Voted

Hickory Park will have its new tennis courts. But the courts will be set back 100 feet from Greenwood Avenue to reduce any nuisance factor for local residents.

City Councilmen voted 7-0 Tuesday night to accept this and other recommendations from their recreation, culture, and parks subcommittee.

The council approved the committee's suggestion that the first of the two tennis courts be built at the earliest possible date, stipulating that the \$15,000 appropriated for the project be used for the tennis court only.

THE SECOND court, which will encroach on a segment of land owned by Standard Oil Co., will be built some time in the future. A committee of local residents and city hall staff members will work out any problems pertaining to the encroachment.

To further cut down on any nuisance to local residents, councilmen voted to have a committee of home owner representatives meet with the school board to arrange for a gate to be constructed between the courts and the adjoining school.

The city will also landscape the courts and attempt to minimize annoyance of the night lighting system. Lights are scheduled to be turned off at 10 p.m.

\$6,000 Loss Reported Thieves Hit Three Homes in Torrance

Burglars broke into three Torrance homes Thursday, escaping with more than \$6,000 in jewelry, camera equipment, and cash, according to reports made to Torrance police.

Thefts were reported by Edward R. Hermann, 59, of 614

Paseo de la Playa; Lois D. Pallatin, 48, of 22938 Samuel St.; and James E. Warnock, 25, of 3430 W. 170th St.

Hermann reported a loss of nearly \$5,000 in jewelry and cash from his Riviera area home. Police the burglars en-

tered the home through a patio door which apparently had been left unlocked.

TWO EXPENSIVE RINGS — one valued at \$2,500 and one valued at \$1,500 — were taken. A third ring, of unknown value, and \$800 in cash also were taken, police said.

Investigating officers said Mrs. Hermann told them she left the house about 5:30 p.m. Hermann returned about 6:30 p.m. and discovered a tape recorder in some bushes in his backyard while checking for golf balls, it was reported.

A further search turned up evidence of the theft.

A NEIGHBOR reported seeing two young men near the home about the time the theft is believed to have occurred, officers said.

Mrs. Pallatin reported the theft of two ladies' wrist watches from her home. They were valued at \$1,100.

Police said the burglar apparently entered the home through an unlocked bedroom window.

Warnock told police a tape deck and movie cameras and projectors were taken from his apartment between 1 and 5:30 p.m. Thursday. He said the items were worth about \$600.

Council Awards Street Contract

City Councilmen voted unanimously Tuesday to award a contract to Sully Miller Construction Co. for the improvement of Crenshaw Boulevard between 190th Street and Del Amo Boulevard. Miller will do the work for \$407,453.85, the lowest of five bids. Councilmen also voted that an additional \$50,000 be appropriated from the gas tax funds to cover costs.

Zone Changed on Land Near School

Parents of North High students expressed pleasure over the City Council's decision to rezone a portion of land adjacent to the school from light manufacturing to residential-professional.

City Councilmen made their unanimous decision Tuesday, wrapping up a rezoning case which had been under consideration for more than two years.

The property in question, owned by Southern California Edison Co., is located at the northeast corner of Yukon Avenue and 182nd Street.

Gerald Morris, a spokesman for POINT (Parents Organization for Improvement of North Torrance), told councilmen that the residential-professional zone would please parents. However, he said the proposed commercial-restricted zone would allow uses that parents feel are incompatible to the school environment.

A main objection to commercial zoning was that it would generate additional traffic and tend to attract congregations of students.

The residential-professional zone would permit the building of apartment houses or certain types of professional offices.

Road Work Approved By Council

Del Amo Boulevard between Prospect and Henrietta Avenues is slated for major improvements, following City Council action Tuesday.

Councilmen passed two resolutions on the matter: one requesting the amount of \$75,000 for the project from County Aid-to-Cities and another resolution authorizing an agreement with Redondo Beach to share the expense of the project.

Acting City Engineer M. Glenn Weaver has also recommended the \$30,000 in gas tax funds be appropriated for the project. Total estimated cost of the project is \$153,000.

PTA Unit Backs School Measure

Mrs. Perry Baker, legislative chairman for Torrance Council, PTA, today announced that the local PTA council urges passage of AB 409, a \$372 million state financial support measure for local schools now before the Legislature.

"AB 409 would do much to bring the state toward a full partnership with local taxpayers in support of public schools," Mrs. Baker declared. "Since 1953, state support of

public education has declined steadily from 47.5 per cent to 36.5 per cent today, placing an ever-increasing burden on the local property tax.

"AS STATE support has declined, inflation has increased the costs of education. The result is that many local property taxpayers are now rebelling. In many areas schools face a financial crisis.

"Already there is a staggering variation in the ability of California school districts to support educational programs. The crisis is accelerating in urban areas where the dropout rate produces large numbers of young men and women who are undereducated, unskilled, and unfit to perform effectively in the economy.

"AB 409 is a nonpartisan approach to school finance. It has the support of every major educational group in the state. It provides the best way to help the local taxpayer now and is more immediately meaningful than some far-off, hoped-for tax relief plan.

"We have urged the Legislature to enact AB 409 this year in the interest of continued quality education for California's children."

Discussion Of Beaches Is Slated

Dick Fitzgerald, director of Los Angeles County Beaches, will be guest speaker Monday at the meeting of the Riviera Homeowner's Association. The meeting will begin at 8 p.m. in Parkway School.

Fitzgerald will discuss problems facing our beaches. Parents of teenagers who enjoy the beach are particularly encouraged to attend.

Fitzgerald will be welcomed by President James (Scotty) Finlay and Past President John D. Haidinger.



GETS GAVEL . . . Edward Cabic (left), newly elected governor Moose Lodge No. 785 of Torrance, accepts his gavel from Roy Smith, retiring governor of the lodge. The exchange of gavels took place at the annual installation ceremonies at the lodge earlier this month. Smith is now the junior past governor.